A LETTER

Written from

DOVER,

TO THE

COMMISSIONERS

FOR THE

CUSTOMS, *London*, May 26.

Relating certain

PASSAGES

OF HIS

MAJESTIES

Arrival and Reception there.

London, Printed for *Thomas Johnson*, 1660.

5

PASSAGES

MAJESTIES

Arrival and Reception there

A

LETTER

VVritten from DOVER to the Commissioners of the Custom-House *London*, *May* 26.

May it please your Worships,

ALthough I have nothing of Custom Affairs, yet have I something of a more acceptable Resentment unto you at this time to impart unto you.

It hath pleased God to honor this Town yesterday, at about three of the Clock in the Afternoon, with the happy Arival of His Most Excellent Majesty, with the Illustrious Princes, the Dukes of *York* and *Glocester*, many Noblemen, Knights, and Gentlemen with him.

The Town was very much filled with many Lords and persons of great Quality and their Attendants; as also with several Troops of Horse and Gentlemen of the County, attending the Right Honorable the Earl of *Winchelsey*, who were very much increased by the Accession of his Excellency the Lord General *Monck*, with a very great number of Gentlemen, and several Troops of Horse, who came to this Town at about one of the Clock after Dinner the same day, to wait upon his Majesty at his first Landing, who with many thousands of people of all degrees, stood upon the Beach, with longing expectation of that most pleasant vision.

When His Majesty left the Ship, (*Charles* the quondam *Nobler*) to whom he came, and went into the Barge that brought him to Land, the Guns from the whole Fleet, and afterwards the Guns of the Castle roared like continued Claps of thunder, during the space of about half an hour, and the people contended with them to out-noise them (if it were possible) with joyful Shoutings and Acclamations, which continued (some short intermissions excepted to take breath) until his Landing, and a good while after; the great Guns from the Castle also again thundering forth the Joys of that Garison.

Upon his Approach towards the shore, his Excellency the Lord General *Monck* did hastily run unto the very extream of a Bridge, made on purpose to accommodate His Majesties convenient Landing, and kneeled down to receive His Majesty, and His Majesty embraced him in his arms; and His Majesty also kneeled down, with his eyes and hands lifted up towards heaven, but I have not heard of any words uttered then by him, desiring, it seems, to be as much in secret as such an act at that time and place could permit him to be, and to speak more to God in his mind, then he thought meet should be heard by men. The two Dukes also kneeled down, congratulated his happy Arival, and kiss'd his hand.

Then he advanced towards a Canopy, a Chair, Cushion, and Carpet spread upon the Beach where the Mayor of the Town, with his brethren the Jurats, Common-Councel-Men, all in their Gowns, and Freemen of the best quality, in the best equipage they could, waited for his Majesties landing: The Trumpets and Waits making all possible melody they could in the mean time.

When he came thither, the Mayor upon his knee made a short speech, his Majesty three times bidding him rise up and speak: The Mayors speech contained a congratulation of his most happy and prosperous arival in such Honor, peace, and safety, his great preservations in many difficulties, and dan-

gers,

gers, the wonderful providence of God ordering and terminating all our late troubles, and revolutions of Government with peace, and without blood in the restauration of his Majesty, and his People unto their respective rights, the most cordial affections of all his people unto him, and his gracious clemency and goodness declared unto them &c. resigning up his white staff (the badge of his authority) unto his Majesty; which he returned again unto the Mayor.

Then the Mayor by the hands of an ancient, reverend, and learned Minister, Mr. *Readdin*, presented his Majesty with a rich Bible prepared by the Townsmen for that purpose, signifying in a very short speech the most confident presumptions of his people, that nothing would be more acceptable unto him, then the glory of God, in the defence of the protestant religion contained in that Book.

The said Mr. *Readdin* upon his knees kist his Majesty's hand, and beginning to speak, his Majesty commanded him to rise up, which accordingly he did, and made a short, but very pious and pithy speech, importing the inestimable treasures of divine riches contained in that Book, presuming, and bespeaking his Majesty's most pious care of it, and affections to it, concluding with a holy wish that it might be unto him and his family as the Ark of old was unto the house of *Obed-edom* shuting up all with *God save the King*, and let all the people say Amen. which they did with a very great shout, joy and cheerfulness.

His Majesty took the Book into his hands from the said Minister with a most gracious and pleasant Countenance, and with a most grave, serious, and soft voice said, that nothing was, and should be more dear unto him then the Bible, and so he gave it to a Gentleman next unto him, and also called for the velvet bag to put it in, and after it was put into his coach.

His Majesty then embraced several Noblemen who kissed his hand, and the hands of the most Illustrious Princes, his two brothers, upon which, his Majesty, the said Princes, and the Lord *Monck*, went into his Majesty's Coach, and immediatly

road

road away with a very great number of Noblemen &c. with him towards *Canterbury*. This small Town being not able to entertain them, so many thousands with their Horses, Coaches and country people &c.

I had the honor and happiness of entertaining some of his Majesties family, and other persons of honor, interest, & intimacy with his Majesty, from whom I had so many assurances, convincing Arguments, and instances of his Majesties piety, clemency, sweetness of nature, temperance, meekness, patience, mercifulness, tenderness of spirit towards all honest peaceable men, readiness to forgive, averseness to revenge, &c. as I must confess I did not expect, and which (being true) gives great cause to bewail, and lament the evil of those that have otherways represented him, especially if against their knowledge, and consciences; as also the unhappiness of the Nation that hath been so long injured by his detention from them. And which gives great assurance of our future felicity, if we know, consider, and wisely improve the things belonging unto our peace.

One of the said persons assured me that within these very few days his Majesty was speaking with some Gentlemen concerning his party in *England*, and had these words—I hear there are many swearers, drunkards, and profane persons that say they are of my party, but they are of the devils party, and not of my party, I renounce them.

I have heard also several other expressions and instances to the same purpose, which because they cannot be mentioned without some reflection of disparagement to persons who cannot but know themselves concerned and meant therein, if it should be spoken of, I think not fit to particularize.

I have seen also a letter of his Majesties own hand writing which was accidentally produced upon occasion of our discourse, arguing a very pious and excellent temper and disposition in him, which because his Majesties letter, and fearing it should both offend his Majesty and also the Gen-

tleman

tleman himſelf, ſhould that alſo be ſpoken of which his Majeſty writ privately, and was privately diſcourſed of by us, I forbear to mention.

I pray pardon my prolixity, and let the happineſs of the occaſion, and ſubject thereof attain the ſame, and accept of the humble reſpects of,

Right Worſhipful,

Your Humble Servant,

Dover, 26 May, 1660.

John Price.

FINIS.